

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The specification and drawings have been amended to correct minor informalities and perceived inconsistencies between the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 1-13 are presented for consideration. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Applicants have amended Claims 2-6 to place them in better form. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1-13 have been allowed over the art of record and that the instant application is in condition for allowance, except for the noted formal matter.

The title was objected to as not being sufficiently descriptive. The title has been amended to recite -- IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS THAT DETERMINES A MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY AND/OR TIME PERIOD --.

The specification and drawings were objected to for various informalities. The specification and drawings have been amended to address each of the objections set forth in the Office Action. In particular, original FIG. 7 has been deleted as being duplicative of FIG. 8, originally filed FIG. 6 has been re-labeled as FIG. 7, and a new FIG. 6 has been added which matches the description of FIG. 6 in the specification. Support for new FIG. 6 can be found in

the original specification at least at paragraphs [0097] - [0101], especially when taken in view of FIG. 5 and the discussion of that figure in paragraphs [0093] - [0096].

Also, in FIG. 5, reference characters S1-S5, M1-M5 and SL1 have been renumbered as S11-S15, M11-M15 and S11, respectively, and the description of FIG. 5 in the specification has been amended to change the reference characters accordingly. FIG. 5 has also been amended to conform with the description of that figure in the specification.

Similar changes were incorporated in new FIG. 6, listing the corresponding reference characters as S21-S25, M21-M25, and SL21, respectively, and the description of FIG. 6 in the specification was amended accordingly.

FIGS. 2, 19A, 19B, 26 and 29 have been amended as suggested in the Office Action.

The drawings were objected to because they do not include reference characters SL2, 650, S1114 and S2308, which are mentioned in the specification. However, Applicants note that these characters are shown in FIGS. 4, 9, 10, 21 and 29, respectively. The specification has been amended herein to refer to each of these reference characters.

The drawings were also objected to because reference characters 760-768 are shown in the drawings, but not mentioned in the specification. However, Applicants note that these characters are discussed on pages 26 and 27 of the original specification. FIG. 6 as amended herein includes each of these reference characters.

The specification was objected to for various informalities noted in the Office Action. To the extent that these informalities have not been remedied by the foregoing drawings amendments, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested in the Office Action.

Claims 2, 3 and 4-13 were objected to for various informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 2, 3 and 4-13 as suggested in the Office Action to obviate the noted informalities. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3 and 4-13 are in condition for allowance.

For the reasons noted above, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Divine", written over a horizontal line.

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed Replacement Sheets of drawings for the corresponding drawing sheets currently on file.

FIG. 2 has been amended by changing the label on box 101 from “DOCUMENT FEEDER” to -- DOCUMENT FEEDER --.

FIG. 5 has been amended by changing reference characters S1-S5, M1-M5 and SL1 to S11-S15, M11-M15 and SL11, respectively, and amending the figure to match the description of FIG. 5 in the specification.

FIG. 6 has been amended by replacing originally filed FIG. 6 with a new figure which matches the description of FIG. 6 in the specification. Originally filed FIG. 6 has been re-labeled as FIG. 7.

FIG. 7 as amended corresponds to originally filed FIG. 6, but has been re-labeled as FIG. 7. Also, reference characters 502, 520, 521, 611, 612, 630, 711, 712, and 720 have been inserted to match the description of this figure in the specification. Originally filed FIG. 7 has been deleted as duplicative of FIG. 8.

FIG. 9 has been amended by changing reference character “650” to -- 600 --.

FIGS. 19A and 19B have been amended by changing “MINTENANCE” to -- MAINTENANCE --.

FIG. 26 has been amended by changing the label on box S2010 from “PRIOLITY” to -- PRIORITY --.

FIG. 29 has been amended by switching the labels of the outputs of box S2310 from “YES” to -- NO -- and vice versa.